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plant—to put it in shape to begin business and to supply it with materials for three months' operation—will cost between \$2,500,000 and \$3,000,000.

"Public Roads," a publication issued by the federal government, has printed figures showing the results of exhaustive study of this matter of cement plants by experts. These figures are based on the cost of a plant with an annual capacity of 600,000 barrels. It shows that, in 1920, such a plant equipped with make-shift buildings would have cost \$2,090,000; while with permanent buildings the cost would have been \$2,921,000. In addition, it is shown that \$219,250 would be required for supplies with which to begin the actual manufacture of cement. These supplies would last approximately three months.

Since 1920, the cost of building and equipping such a plant has fallen between 10 per cent and 15 per cent, it is stated.

This shows that a 600,000-barrel plant would cost today \$2,826,325, if equipped with permanent buildings, and \$2,078,325 if temporary buildings were erected.

Is it altogether certain, therefore, that a state-owned plant, with the lax management that always accompanies public work, could be made to pay even if it sold cement at the present price?

*(Reprinted from The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, February 10, 1923)*

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#### WHAT DOES A CEMENT PLANT COST?

In considering Senator Calvert's bill for a state-owned cement plant, one is forced to wonder how the senator arrived at his conclusion that \$500,000 is a sum sufficiently large to be of any real service in the prosecution of any such project. For even a casual investigation of the subject will show that from four to six times this amount will be needed if the state is to build a plant large enough to be of real service.

It is said by those in a position to know that close to a million barrels of cement are used on public works in Oklahoma yearly. If, therefore, the state goes into the business, a plant capable of producing 600,000 barrels of cement yearly is as small as should be considered, it would seem. And to build, equip and supply such a